



MAYWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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AQuESTT!

The Christmas Holiday is quickly upon us and we are almost one-half way through the school year. During this time of year, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) disseminates the testing data for all schools and rates schools under the AQuESTT classification system. Schools are rated at the district and school levels. This past year Maywood was rated as “Great” for the entire school district. Maywood and Medicine Valley were both rated as “Great,” and Eustis-Farnam was rated as “Good.”

The rating is largely based upon NSCAS and ACT test scores. The AQuESTT ratings is ending at the close of this year and a new system of school accountability will emerge. Until next year, let’s examine Maywood School’s performance and demographic information

This last year Maywood student population Pre-K – 12 was 186 students. Our school consists of 8.6% Hispanic students, 89.8% white and 1.6% two or more races. English Language learner represents 4.73% of the student body while state wide English Language learners account for 10.34% of the state-wide population. Our district saw a significant increase in highly mobile learners going from a low of 2.66% in 2023-24 to 6.56% in 2024-25 school year. We are seeing more students move in and out during the school year last year. Free lunch moved downward from a high of 56% two years ago to 52% last year. Gifted or High Ability Learners dropped from 13.13% to a low of 7.69% last year.

School mobility rate increased significantly from a low of 2.27% to last year’s mobility of 8.89%. This is the highest mobility rate Maywood has experience in the last five years. Graduation rate lowered this past year to 92.8% with the dropping out of one student. However, 13 students graduated from high school last year. 80% of Maywood graduates will attend a 2-year/4-year college, next year while the other 20% either entered the military or joined the workforce. An area of growth for our schools is attendance rate which fell below the state by one-quarter percent at 92.68%. We continue to improve our chronic absenteeism rate down approximately one-half percent at 15.05% last year.


Examining student performance on the Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) assessments all Maywood students participated in the assessment. Maywood students improved in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Combined Grades ELA scores improved from 52% to 77%, Mathematics scores improved from 57% to 58% and Science combined scores improved from 77% to 96% last year. Students and teachers are to be commended for improving in all three NSCAS assessment areas.

ACT scores at the eleventh grade are used for student readiness for post-secondary freshman performance. 31% of last year’s juniors were considered “proficient.” This score reflects a 4% decrease in student performance from the prior year’s assessments. Examining ACT test scores reflects different cohort student groups. This data looks different from same student scores over the last two years reflecting student improvement. Next year the ACT test will change and the scores will reflect a new examination.

All of this data goes into the classification of the district and schools. Assessment data is the primary rating criteria for school ratings. This last year the Maywood School District was rated as a “Great School.” The high school rated “Good,” while the middle school rated “Great,” and the elementary rating was “Great.” Congratulations to all students and staff on these accomplishments. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

January 2026

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 - New Years - No School Christmas Break 	2 - No School Christmas Break - MHC BB @ Cambridge @ 3:00pm	3 - MHC BB vs. Sandhills/Thedford @ Maywood @ 1:00pm
4	5 - No School - Teacher In-Service	6 - MHC BB vs. Hi-Line @ Eustis @ 4:00pm	7	8 - MHC JH BB @ Wallace @ 3:00pm	9 - MHC BB vs. Paxton @ Hayes Center @ 4:00pm	10 - MHC JV BB @ Perkins County JV Tournament @ TBD
11	12	13 - MHC BB vs. Maxwell @ Maywood @ 4:00pm	14	15 - MHC JH BB vs. Wauneta-Palisade @ Hayes Center @ 2:00pm	16 - MHC BB vs. Sandhills Valley @ Maywood @ 4:00pm	17
18	19	20 - MHC BB vs. Bertrand @ Maywood @ 4:00pm	21 - FFA District LDE Contest - RPAC Art Contest - MHC JH BB @ Maxwell @ 1:00pm	22	23 - MHC Girls BB RPAC 1st Round @ Wauneta @ TBA	24 - MHC Boys BB @ RPAC 1st Round @ Wauneta @ TBA
25	26 - MHC Girls BB @ RPAC Quarterfinals @ Paxton @ TBA	27 - MHC Boys BB @ RPAC Quarterfinals @ Paxton @ TBA	28 - MHC JH BB vs. Hitchcock County @ Hayes Center @ 2:00pm	29 - MHC Girls BB @ RPAC Semifinals @ Wallace @ TBA - Frontier County Spelling Bee @ Maywood @ 9:00am	30 - MHC Boys BB RPAC Semifinals @ Wallace @ TBA	31 - MHC BB RPAC Consolation/Finals @ McCook C.C. @ TBA

Title 1 Tidbit

Parent Quiz: Are you teaching your child new words?

Communication skills improve when your child can use just the right word to express an idea. Are you helping your child build a large vocabulary that supports academic success? Students are learning new words every day in school but the learning can continue with family members after the last bell rings. Consider the questions below:

1. Do you discuss unfamiliar words and their meanings when you and your child read together?
2. Do you introduce new words for familiar ideas? "The boy *tumbled* down the hill." What do you think tumble means?
3. Do you choose word games often when playing games as a family? (Examples: Scrabble, Boggle, Hang Man, Unscramble the Words, Word Find, and I Spy)
4. Do you help your child make and add to a personal dictionary of new words? (For a gift, give them a blank journal to write in new words they learn and their meanings.)
5. Do you post a new word each day or week that family members try to use in conversation? (Examples of 12 vocabulary words in: Climate, construct, achieve, loyal, journey, typical, solid, liquid, gas, process, bravery, poem)

How well are you currently doing with the quiz above? More "yes" answers mean you are adding to your child's word power. Way to go! For each "no" answer, try that idea at home!

"A child needs a forest of words to wander through, a sea of words to splash in." - Frank Bruni

Happy New Year to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Emily Lenz


Title 1 and Special Education Teacher

Maywood Public School

308-362-4223

emily.lenz@maywoodtigers.org

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 -2:30 Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm -FFA State Degree & Proficiency Review - MHC JH BB vs. Med Valley @ Maywood @ 1:00pm	5 - NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service - MHC BB @ Hershey @ 4:00pm	6 - NO SCHOOL - MHC BB vs. Hitchcock County @ Hayes Center @ 4:00pm	7 - MHC JH BB WaPa Tourney @ Wauneta @ 9:00am
8	9 - RPAC Vocal Clinic @ Hayes Center (Concert @ 7:00pm)	10 - MHC BB vs. Wauneta-Palisade @ Hayes Center (Parents/ Senior Night) @ 4:00pm	11 - FFA District CDE - NAEP Testing Day - MHC JH BB @ Brady @ 1:00pm	12 - FBLA Bloodmobile	13 - MHC BB @ Chase County @ TBD - Chas Perez Speaker (6 -12th Grade)	14 - Valentine's Day 
15	16 - Presidents' Day - MHC Girls BB (Sub Districts @ High Seed @ TBA	17- MHC Girls BB (Sub Districts @ High Seed @ TBA	18 - RPAC Speech Meet @ Med Valley	19 - MHC Girls BB (Sub Districts) @ High Seed @ TBA	20 - MHC Boys BB @ Perkins County @ 6:00pm	21
22	23 - FFA CDE (Welding) @ McCook - MHC Boys BB (Sub Districts) @ High Seed @ TBA	24 - MHC Boys BB (Sub Districts) @ High Seed @ TBA	25	26 - MHC Boys BB (Sub Districts) @ High Seed @ TBA	27 - MHC Girls BB (District Finals) @ High Seed @ TBA	28 - MHC Boys BB (District Finals) @ High Seed (Possible Date 1 of 3)

Learning the Fundamentals!

MHC Basketball Fundamentals Camp hit the court in Hayes Center on Saturday, December 6th. They all had a great time getting to learn with their friends and coaches. A great way to stay active and get better!



January 2026 Menu



Breakfast every day offers the choice of 3 different cold cereals. All grains offered at breakfast and lunch are whole grain rich. A variety of low fat and fat free milks are offered with breakfast and lunch. The Garden bar is offered to K-12 Students daily. Which includes a variety of fresh vegetables and fruit for the students to choose from.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1% White or flavored milk served daily This institution is an equal opportunity provider			1 No School	2 No School
5 No School	6 Cherry & Blueberry Turnover Chicken Fajitas Spanish Rice Black Beans Fruit	7 Egg, Hashbrowns, & Bacon Goulash Carrots Fruit Garlic Bread	8 Pancakes & Sausage Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce Green Beans Fruit	9 Chocolate Chip Muffins Chicken Legs Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Fruit Roll
12 Pancake on a Stick Pig in a Blanket Potato Wedges Fruit	13 Biscuits & Gravy Taco Burger Refried Beans Fruit	14 Danish Ham & Au Gratin Potatoes Carrots Fruit Roll	15 Omelet Chicken Wrap Green Beans Fruit	16 Fruit & Yogurt Parfait Pepperoni Pizza Broccoli Fruit
19 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Fruit Roll	20 Dutch Waffle BBQ Meatballs Mac & Cheese Mixed Vegetables Fruit Roll	21 Eggs, Sausage Links, & Biscuits Philly Cheese Steak Fries Fruit	22 Cini-minis Teriyaki Chicken Fried Rice Egg Roll Fruit	23 Oatmeal Ranchero Pizza Corn Fruit
26 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Popcorn Chicken Peas Fruit Roll	27 Frudel Beef Nachos Black Beans & Corn Salsa Fruit Churros	28 Biscuits & Gravy Lasagna Soup Cucumber & Tomato Salad Fruit Garlic Breadsticks	29 Strawberry & Banana Smoothie Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Fruit Roll	30 Chocolate Chip Waffles Boneless Wings Carrots & Celery Sticks Fruit Texas Toast

Maywood Public Schools is an equal opportunity provider. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.



JANUARY TEAMMATES

Newsletter



IMPORTANT INFO:

Happy New Year, Mentees and Mentors,

We know winter schedules can get hectic, and cold weather can make routine feel challenging. Yet small moments of consistency—showing up, listening, playing a quick game, or checking in—make a world of difference. Thank you for continuing to show up, even on those gray winter days.

January is often filled with new goals and renewed energy. This is a wonderful time to talk with your mentee about what they're excited for this semester, what they hope to improve, and what they feel proud of from last year. These conversations help build trust and show students that their goals matter.

January is Mentor Appreciation Month, so please come to the basketball game on January 13th, where mentors/mentees will be recognized at halftime of the boys' game. Both mentors and mentees will get free admission and popcorn for the game. Please remember to sign the book in the office for your visits so we can more easily keep an accurate record to help the chapter run smoothly. As always, if you are interested in being a mentor or mentee, please contact Shannon Storm at Maywood Public Schools.

ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- **MAKE A LIST OF THREE THINGS YOU'RE EACH LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2026.**
- **SHARE A FAVORITE WINTER MEMORY OR TRADITION.**
- **TALK ABOUT ONE THING YOU WANT TO LEARN THIS SEMESTER.**



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/1-1/5- No School
- 1/6- First day back from break
- 1/13- Mentor appreciation basketball game at Maywood!





Helping Your Child Feel Better--Right at School

With students back in class, it's common for kids to start feeling under the weather. The great news is-- our Virtual School Health clinic makes it easy for your child to get the care they need without leaving school. Through a quick video visit with a Children's Nebraska Advanced Practice Provider, your child can receive the medical advice and treatment they need right away without even needing to leave school.

Common Back-to-School Issues We Can Treat Virtually:

- **Coughs and runny noses**
- **Sore throats and earaches**
- **Fevers**
- **Allergies and asthma**
- **Rashes and skin irritations**
- **Headaches and stomach aches**
- **Flu and COVID**
- **Head lice**
- **Pink Eye**
- **Minor cuts and scrapes**
- **Behavioral health screenings**

How does a virtual school health visit work?

If your child visits the school health office because they are not feeling well, the school health representative may recommend a Virtual School Health visit. If you agree, the school health representative will help schedule the appointment, and you will receive an email with instructions on how you can join the visit.

Once the provider joins the visit, they can talk with you and your child about how they are feeling. Your school is equipped with special medical tools that let the provider check your child's vital signs, listen to their heart and lungs, and look inside their ears, nose, and mouth. The provider will assess your child, determine what's wrong, and prescribe any medications if needed. They will also help decide whether your child can return to class, should go home, or needs additional medical care. Afterward, you, the school, and your child's primary care provider will all get a summary of the visit.

All Virtual School Health visits are safe and use a secure, HIPPA-compliant platform. They are not recorded, so your child's information stays completely private---just like a regular doctor's visit.

The Children's Virtual School Health program is here to help your child get the care they need so they can feel better, get back to learning, and help reduce missed workdays for parents. We are now scheduling visits for your school!

FFA Fall Recap:

The Maywood FFA has been plenty busy this Fall! We elected a great officer team this year, including our president, Dallas Grunden, our vice president, Taren Sailor, the secretary, Blayklee Farr, the treasurer, Jillian Johnson, the reporter, Adalyn Schurr, our historian, Karlee Hatfield, the sentinel, Gwen Rutherford, our three student advisors, Clayton Mahanes, Lucas Mahanes, and Steven Werkmeister, and our new advisor J.R. Clark!

Our 35 members started off the FFA year with going to Husker Harvest Days by Grand Island. Our chapter has competed in land judging in Imperial. We had our annual fundraiser, Feed the Farmer, which went very well! 11 of our members attended the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. There were 26 members that competed in Livestock Judging at NCTA in Curtis. We had 9 contestants for CDE's, with 4 qualifying for state! At districts, Adalyn Schurr placed 2nd in Senior Public Speaking, Jaylee Sellers received 3rd in Senior Public Speaking, Karlee Hatfield was awarded 3rd in Cooperative Speaking, and Gavon Schurr placed 3rd in Junior Public Speaking.

Next semester we will be competing in Ag Mechanics, Welding, Floriculture, Ag Demo, Ag Sales, Creed Speaking, and employment Skills. The Ag shop has kicked out numerous projects this semester including an 8x4 welding table along with a new Combo Lincoln Welder through a grant from Mr. Bejot.

We will have our hired hand auction and feed, Monday, February 2, 2026. We will be “selling” students to come work for you in pairs, and drawing for the two halves of the pig raffles that we have been selling. Contact an FFA member if you're interested in buying a ticket for \$5!

We are very thankful for our local support from the community! Thank you to everyone who has helped us this semester!



Maywood Public School
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Maywood NE 69038

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Maywood Driver's Education Class

Maywood Public School is proud to provide a Driver's Education Class for any student who is interested in taking the course. Maywood Public School and the Maywood School Board will be offering this class free of charge to Maywood students. The class consists of 20 in-class hours covering 19 chapters of the AAA "How to Drive" text and a written exam as well as 5 hours of individual drive time with the driving instructor and a driving exam. The qualifications students must meet to take the class is to have a state-issued School Learners Permit (SLP) by the time the driving portion of the class begins (approximately March of 2026). The benefit of taking the class is receiving a waiver for the written test and driving portion of the driver's test for a school permit and the driving requirement for the POP (Provisional Operators Permit). An additional benefit is that some insurance companies offer a discount on student driver insurance policies if a student has passed a Driver's Education class.

Students can get a School Learners Permit (SLP) at any Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's License Examiner Office. Students must be 14 years of age, pass a vision test, pass a written test, provide proof of US citizenship or lawful status (a birth certificate), provide a valid social security number, and provide two forms which prove a principle address in Nebraska. Practice tests for the SLP can be found at <https://www.nebraska.gov/dmv/practice/>.

Maywood's Driver's Education Class will start in January of 2026. Most classes will take place immediately after the school day (a schedule is currently being constructed). Upon completion of the 20 in-class hours, individual drive time will be scheduled. Drive time will be both after school and on some weekends. If you are interested in signing your student up for Maywood's Driver's Education class, please email the Driver's Education Instructor, Emily Lenz at emily.lenz@maywoodtigers.org or call her at the school at 308-362-4223. You may also contact Mrs. Lenz on her personal mobile phone at 308-379-5761 with any questions about the program.

Thanks and drive safely,

Emily Lenz
Drivers Education Instructor
Maywood Public School